

***Amendments to the Claims:***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned application.

1. (Currently amended): Belt sander, comprising:

a housing;

two rollers which are bearing mounted in the housing and which are adapted to guide a sanding belt, wherein a sanding surface lies parallel to the common external tangent plane of the rollers and wherein a sanding area is located between the rollers in the sanding surface;

a support structure placed between the rollers for supporting the sanding belt; and  
~~characterized by a~~ releasable sanding depth reference member extending on at least one side of the sanding area for the purpose of obtaining a reference surface, said sanding depth reference member lying against the support structure and being adapted to support the sanding belt in the sanding area.

2. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sanding depth reference member extends on two opposite sides of the sanding area.

3. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~, wherein the sanding depth reference member extends on four sides of the sanding area.

4. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sanding depth reference member comprises a recess for receiving the sanding belt.

5. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a part of the sanding depth reference member is adjustable in the height.
6. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sanding depth reference member is height-adjustable on at least one side of the sanding area.
7. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sanding depth reference member comprises a bent metal plate.
8. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plate comprises a plate strip on one side of the sanding area, the length of which strip, transversely of the axis of each roller, is greater than the corresponding length of the support structure.
9. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plate comprises a plate strip on one side of the sanding area, the length of which strip, transversely of the axis of each roller, is substantially equal to or smaller than the corresponding length of the support structure.
10. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in claim 8 ~~or 9, characterized in that~~, wherein located opposite the plate strip is a second plate strip which is connected to plate strips extending on the front and rear sides of the rollers.

11. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sanding depth reference member comprises a fixation ear extending to the support structure.

12. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the belt sander is a parquet sanding machine.

13. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sanding depth reference member is connected non-releasably to the support structure.

14. (Currently amended): Belt sander as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that there is provided~~ claim 1, further comprising a sanding belt over the rollers and the support structure, wherein the sanding depth reference member extends between the support structure and the sanding belt.

15. (Currently amended): ~~Sanding~~ A sanding depth reference member for a belt sander as claimed in any of the foregoing claims the belt sander comprising:

a housing;

two rollers which are bearing mounted in the housing and which are adapted to guide a sanding belt, wherein a sanding surface lies parallel to the common external tangent plane of the rollers and wherein a sanding area is located between the rollers in the sanding surface; and

a support structure placed between the rollers for supporting the sanding belt;

wherein the sanding depth reference member extends on at least one side of the sanding area for the purpose of obtaining a reference surface, and the sanding depth reference

member lies against the support structure and is adapted to support the sanding belt in the sanding area.

16. (New): Belt sander as claimed in claim 9, wherein located opposite the plate strip is a second plate strip which is connected to plate strips extending on the front and rear sides of the rollers.

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It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel Deposit Account No. 50-1505/6049-00700/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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